

In addition, the specification has been amended to include reference numerals for the various elements described, as required by the Examiner. A substitute specification in clean form without markings as to amended material along with a marked-up version of the specification showing all the changes to the specification of record are submitted with this amendment. The substitute specification includes no new matter.

The Examiner rejected Claim 1, for the reasons stated, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Klaassen. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's conclusion.

Klaassen discloses a device for introducing liquid into meat wherein spray nozzles directly contact the meat to inject liquid while the device simultaneously deforms the meat. However, the liquid feed system of the Klaassen invention (25, 32, 33) is not an air "booster" or pressure intensifying pump as suggested by the Examiner; rather, the fluid is injected using a plunger driven by a hydraulic cylinder to draw fluid in the system and force fluid through the nozzle beam. Because the nozzle beam directly contacts the meat, a high pressure "boost" of liquid is not required to penetrate the meat. Instead, the Klaassen hydraulic cylinder is intended to provide only enough pressure to achieve penetration at a given nozzle size without damaging the underside of the meat. The differences in the Klaassen device are underscored by the markedly lower injection pressures available therefrom, as compared to the Applicants' invention.

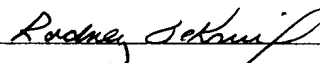
For these reasons, the Klaassen patent does not disclose Applicants' invention and is an inappropriate reference on which to base anticipation. The Examiner is encouraged to withdraw this rejection and allow independent Claims 1 and 7, together with those claims depending therefrom.

This application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action, consistent with the preceding, is respectfully requested. As provided by the enclosed Associate Power of Attorney, please contact the undersigned if any issue

remains. Likewise, all future correspondence should be so directed. Thank you for your help and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

BY



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